CIP's Environmental Policies Guidelines

Version 0

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ISBN: 978-92-9060-517-1
DOI: 10.4160/9789290605171

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Produced by International Potato Center (CIP)

Correct citation:
International Potato Center. 2019. CIP's Environmental Policies Guidelines. Lima (Peru). International Potato Center. 13 p.

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January 2019

CIP thanks all donors and organizations which globally support its work through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund. https://www.cgiar.org/funders/

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List of Acronyms

CIP	International Potato Center
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIVS	environmental impact verification sheet
PNM	Project Notification Memorandum
R&D	research and development

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Introduction

Major donors of international agricultural research and development (R&D) projects are paying greater attention to a project's potential environmental impacts in their overall technical evaluation of proposals being considered for funding. In response to this heightened concern, the International Potato Center (CIP) now requires that all project proposals and concept notes consider the potential environmental impacts that may reasonably be anticipated from the different activities that form the components of a project's implementation. Arriving at a clear understanding of the various environmental risks and at different levels of impact, from low to moderate to high, during the development of a project's strategy and approach to implementation *from the outset* of project design is likely to improve CIP's competitive position when a donor considers funding our work. To that end CIP has prepared this document, especially when developing a proposal or concept note. (A quick overview of how the environmental policies guidelines fit into proposal development is shown in Annex 1.)

CIP's environmental policies guidelines were formulated to reduce the levels of contamination of soil, water, air, and food products in all areas where our R&D projects are carried out.

The guidelines build on CIP's approved environmental policies as they apply to land clearing, irrigation, fertilizer use, water management, use of pesticides, and the operational procedures on distribution of vegetative material. This guidance is used to help determine possible positive or negative environmental impacts from a project's implementation. The impacts are raised as assumptions and will depend mainly on either the intervention strategy or the adequate development of basic, applied, or adaptive research under laboratory, greenhouse, or field conditions.

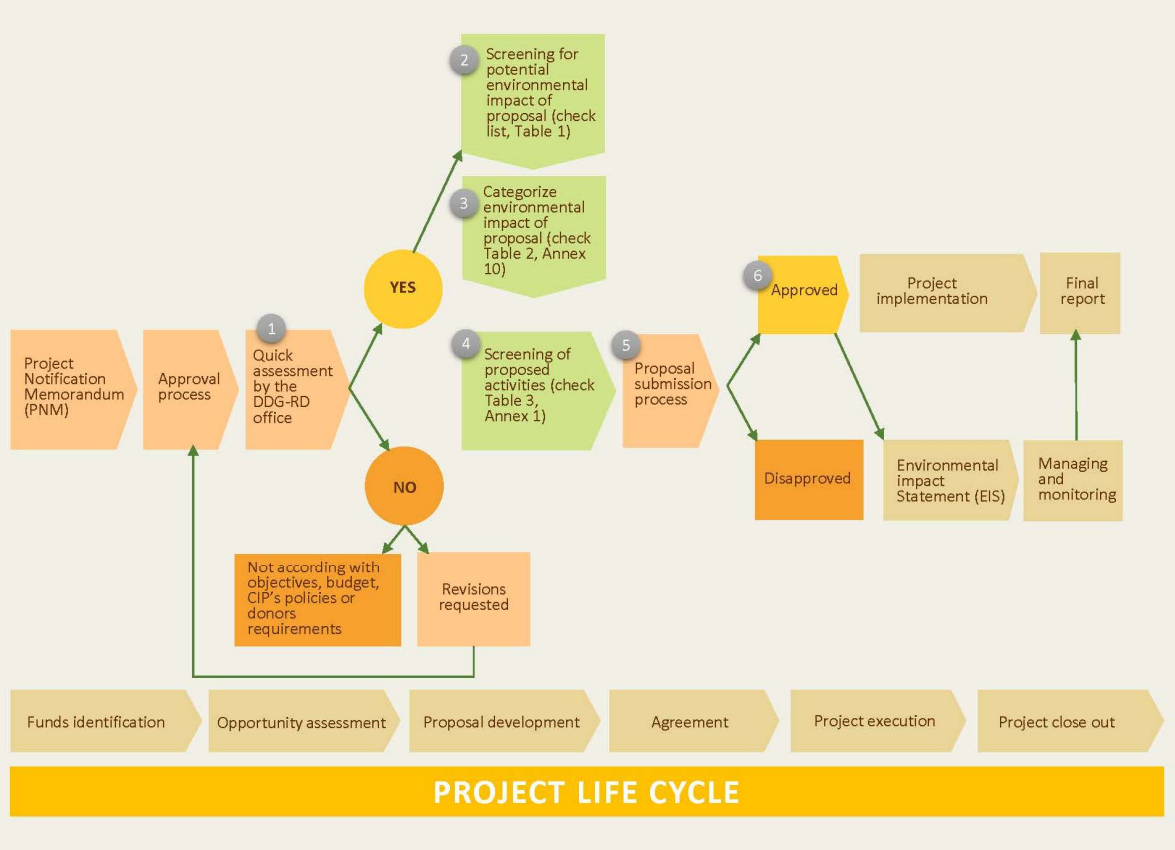
CIP project officers should use this guidance to undertake an initial environmental screening of the activities considered in their projects, and when they later design friendly environmental development activities based on national and regional laws and CIP's environmental policies. An environmental management officer, in conjunction with the Deputy Director General for Research and Development, will make an environmental assessment and monitor the projects being developed both within the experimental stations and outside them.

CIP will continuously review its environmental appraisals and will keep the most current information available on our institutional web page at www.cipotato.org.

Environmental Impact Assessment and the Project Life Cycle

The assessment of concept notes and projects in terms of environmental impact will be part of the project life cycle. Right after a Project Notification Memorandum (PNM) is approved to move forward, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will start and follow the cycle (see figure below).

Carrying out a proposed project's EIA ensures that potential environmental problems and their respective solutions or mitigation measures are considered from the outset of project implementation. The recommendations made by the EIA may require rethinking some project components or activities. It may also require further studies that alter the economic viability of the project or cause it to be delayed.



Compliance of CIP's Environmental Policies

CIP has adapted its environmental policies to create an *environmental impact verification sheet* (EIVS) to identify what reasonably foreseeable effects a proposed project might have on the environment (Table 1). Once the EIVS is completed, the project officer must review, organize, and analyze all environmental information required for the proposed project. The first step is to do an initial screening on the proposed project.

Table 1. EIVS to determine whether the proposed project will comply with CIP's environmental policies

PROJECT TITLE:				
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:				
DONOR:				
Would the project's activities cause any of the following?		**Yes**	**No**	**N.A**
Land Clearance				
Does the project involve the removal of land?				
Are there existing national or regional laws and regulations on land clearance?				
Are there local practices or ancestral knowledge about the removal of lands that should be respected?				
If the project does involve land clearance, will it likely have an impact on the environment?				
Irrigation				
Does the project involve irrigation activities?				
Are there existing national or regional laws and regulations on the use of water for irrigation purposes?				
Are there local practices or ancestral knowledge about the irrigation of crops that should be respected?				
If the project does involve irrigation, will it likely have an impact on the environment?				
Fertilizers				
Does the project involve the use of fertilizers?				
Is it essential to use fertilizers where the project will be carried out?				
Are there existing national or regional laws and regulations on the use of fertilizers on crops?				
Are there local practices or ancestral knowledge about the fertilization of crops that should be respected?				
If the project does involve the use of fertilizer, will it likely have an impact on the environment?				
Water Management				
Does the project involve the management of water resources (underground aquifers and surface water)?				
Is water management essential where the project will be carried out?				

Are there existing national or regional laws and regulations on water management?			
Are there local practices or ancestral knowledge about the use of water resources that should be respected?			
If the project does involve water management, will it likely have an impact on the environment?			
Pesticides			
Does the project involve the application of pesticides?			
Does the project involve the introduction of microorganisms or insects not native to the area?			
Is the use of pesticides essential where the project will be carried out?			
Are there existing national or regional laws and regulations on the use of pesticides?			
Are there local practices or ancestral knowledge about the control of pests and diseases that should be respected?			
If the project does involve pesticides, will it likely have an impact on the environment?			

Screening

Screening is a general evaluation of the project's environmental impacts or its activities and its further categorization according to the inherent environmental risks. (Annex 2 provides a summary table with examples of projects or activities categorized by their environmental risks.) Using this information, and the completed EIVS as a guide, an environmental categorization of a project must be carried out according to the impact produced (Table 2), to determine whether an analysis or an EIA is required.

Table 2. Environmental categories of projects or activities according to the impact produced

Environmental Risk Category	Environmental and Social Impacts	Analysis or Environmental Assessment Required
High	Significant or irreversible adverse impacts	An EIA must be conducted
Moderate	Less significant adverse impacts that can be easily prevented or mitigated	Identify potential negative impacts and the mitigation plans to address them
Low	Minimal or non-adverse impacts	No environmental analysis is required

Categorizing Activities

Once the project screening is completed (see example in Annex 3), it is necessary to describe all activities being planned in order to determine their critical environmental risks to be considered in the development of the project. On the basis of these identified risks, include or briefly describe the plans to reduce the environmental impacts of each activity. A sample summary table is provided (Table 3), which must be completed and submitted with project proposal and a completed EIVS to CIP's PNM Committee.

Table 3. Screening of proposed activities in a proposed project

PROJECT TITLE:					
PROJECT COST:					
DURATION:					
COUNTRY:					
DEPARTMENT/STATE/REGION/PLACE:					
PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL RISK:					
PROJECT OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING:					
BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:					
DATE:					
Activity	**Location**	**Scale/Quantity of Activity**	**Unit (ha, no., etc.)**	**Risk Category (H, M, L)**	**Mitigation Plans**
Component 1					
Activity 1:					
Activity 2:					
Activity 3:					
Component 2					
Activity 1:					
Activity 2:					
Activity 3:					
Approval of mitigation plans recommended:					
Principal Investigator:			Date:		

Project Submission

The environmental management officer should review the environmental aspects of the proposal according to CIP's policies and identify a donors' requirements before the project proposal is submitted.

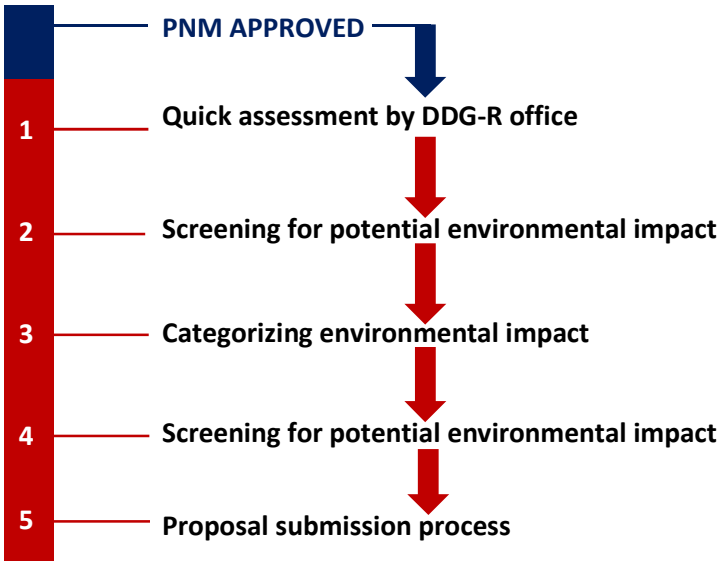
Project Approval and Execution

After a donor approves the project proposal, it is necessary to schedule the activities that include mitigation plans according to risks previously identified. All staff involved in the project must be take responsible for fulfilling any mitigation plans.

Management and Monitoring

Execute the detailed plans for environmental mitigation during implementation. Mitigation is the purposeful implementation of decisions or activities that are designed to reduce the undesirable impacts of a proposed action on the affected environment. The most important issue to consider in developing mitigation plans is the cost of mitigation measures, and thus need to be included in the project's design and budget.

Annex 1. Quick guide



Annex 2. Categorization of activities according to their environmental risks

FAO	USAID	CIP
Projects Considered in Environmental Category A	**Activities That Normally Have a Significant Effect on the Environment**	**Environmental Risk Category *HIGH***
Large-scale agro-industrial projects: implies changes to intensive production technologies	Watershed development program	
Supply of high levels of external inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.)	Irrigation or water management projects, including dams and reservoirs	
Water reservoirs, drainage or irrigation systems of medium and large scale, including the development of groundwater	Projects involving the leveling of agricultural land	
Recovery and development of new lands, including land grading for agriculture and large-scale resettlement	Drainage projects	
Introduction of non-native species, including plants, insects, and animals, including genetically modified organisms	Large-scale agricultural mechanization projects	Introduction of non-native species, including plants, insects, and animals, including genetically modified organisms
Large agricultural mechanization programs	Projects for the development of new agricultural land	
	Resettlement projects	
	Penetration road construction projects or road improvements	
	Energy plants	
	Industrial plants	
	Drinking water and sewage projects other than small-scale projects	
Projects Considered in Environmental Category B	**Development of Activities That Can Lead to an Environmental Risk Assessment**	**Environmental Risk Category *MODERATE***
Medium- and small-scale agribusiness projects	Irrigation or water management, including dams	Medium- and small-scale agribusiness projects
Water reservoirs, small-scale drainage or irrigation systems	Leveling and drainage of agricultural land	Water reservoirs, small-scale drainage or irrigation systems
Schemes of agricultural production to small and medium scale that involves the use of technology not used in the intervention zone (cultivation techniques, use of agricultural	Activities that put at risk endangered and threatened species of plants and animals, biodiversity, or critical habitat	Schemes of agricultural production to small and medium scale that involves the use of technology not used in the intervention zone (cultivation techniques, use of agricultural machinery,

FAO	USAID	CIP
machinery, control of pests and diseases, seeds, fertilizers, etc.)		control of pests and diseases, seeds, fertilizers, etc.)
Projects of adaptation to climate change	Use or acquisition of pesticides	Projects of adaptation to climate change
Reforestation	Activities that negatively affect the tropical forest, relatively low degradation	
Management or rehabilitation of watersheds, watershed management, and agreements for medium-scale projects		
Introduction of genetically modified organisms		Introduction of genetically modified organisms
Significant changes in the genetic reserve		
Changes in the use of lands that affect biodiversity		
Projects Considered in Environmental Category C	**Exemptions and Exclusions**	**Environmental Risk Category *Low***
Evaluations and monitoring of natural resources	National disasters (situations in which an immediate response is required and there are no immediate alternatives available)	
Environmental and sustainable development analysis	Education, training, or technical assistance	Education, training, or technical assistance
Monitoring and evaluation exercises	Experimental research limited	Monitoring and evaluation exercises
Scientific research and field surveys. (Certain research activities that involve agro-chemicals and biotechnologies can be classified as Category B)	Analysis, studies, workshops, or meetings	Scientific research and field surveys
Research and extension in agriculture	Transfer of documents or information	Research and extension in agriculture
Geospatial analysis and remote sensing	General institutional support	Geospatial analysis and remote sensing
Capacity development, communication, and outreach programs, including training	Activities of nutrition, health, and family and population planning	
Activities of minor construction and maintenance of facilities		
Institutional development, including norms and standards		Institutional development, including norms and standards
Reference: Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for FAO Field Projects. 2011. FAO: Rome, Italy, 44p.	**Reference:** USAID Environmental Procedures Training Manual for USAID Environmental Officers and USAID Mission Partners. AFR Edition. May 2003. Compiled and edited by: Mark Stoughton, EPIQ/Tellus Institute, Boston; Weston Fisher, EPIQ/Tellus Institute, Boston.	**References:** CIP's policies.

Annex 3. Example of screening of proposed project activities

PROJECT TITLE:	
PROJECT COST:	
DURATION:	
COUNTRY:	
DEPARTMENT/STATE/REGION/PLACE:	
PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL RISK:	
PROJECT OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING:	
BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	
DATE:	

Activity	Location	Scale/Quantity of activity	Unit (ha, no., etc.)	Risk category (see Table 2)	Mitigation Plans
Component: Increased Agricultural Crop Production					
A.1 Farmers training in general agriculture, irrigation, agronomy, vegetable production, crop protection, etc.	Xx	Approx. 150 farmers	No. of farmers trained	*Low*	Consider appropriate training in pesticide procedures, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), clean-up, and disposal of pesticides
A.2 Agricultural extension and demonstration of improved agricultural practices (e.g., improved seeds, fertilizers, planting methods, crop protection)	Xx	Approx. 100 farmers/ field day	No. of events/ farmers	*Low*	Consider appropriate training in pesticide procedures, use of PPE, clean-up, and disposal of pesticides
A.3 Agricultural household surveys	Xx	Approx. 1,500 households	No. of households visited	*Low*	N.A.
A.4 Field trials of new potato varieties (**not** involving use of pesticides)	Xx	Less than 4 ha	ha	*Low*	N.A.
A.5 Field trials of new potato varieties (**involving** use of pesticides)	Xx	Less than 4 ha	ha	*Moderate*	Appropriate pesticide use protocols to safeguard the health of personnel and to protect local ecosystems must be

					developed and implemented, use of PPE, clean-up, and disposal of pesticides
A.6 Network and capacity building among sweetpotato value chain actors	Xx	4 farmers' associations; 1 market association	People/institutions	*Low*	N.A.
A.7 Research under laboratory or contained greenhouse conditions	Xx	2 technicians	People	*Low*	Consider good laboratory practices and good agricultural practices
A.8 Applied research under field conditions (**not** involving use of pesticides)	XX	Less than 4 ha	ha	*Low*	N.A.
A.9 Applied research under field conditions (**involving** use of pesticides)	XX	Less than 4 ha	ha	*Moderate*	Appropriate pesticide use protocols to safeguard the health of personnel and to protect local ecosystems must be developed and implemented, use of PPE, clean-up, and disposal of pesticides
A.10 Applied research with hazardous microorganisms	Xx	4 technicians	People	*High*	Compliance with host-country phytosanitary rules; no release of genetically modified strains or strains selected for antibiotic resistance
Approval of mitigation plans recommended:					
Principal Investigator:				Date:	

INTERNATIONAL POTATO CENTER

The International Potato Center (known by its Spanish acronym CIP) is a research-for-development organization with a focus on potato, sweetpotato, and Andean roots and tubers. CIP is dedicated to delivering sustainable science-based solutions to the pressing world issues of hunger, poverty, gender equity, climate change and the preservation of our Earth's fragile biodiversity and natural resources.
www.cipotato.org

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